

note

February 22, 1979

ACK. FM/NSC  
CONGRESSIONAL  
LIAISON

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

FEB 23 1979

Dear Mr. President:

It was exactly a week ago yesterday that Ambassador Dubs was killed as a result of gross recklessness on the part of the Afghan authorities. As a former Foreign Service officer myself, I am shocked that the Afghan government has not accepted responsibility for Ambassador Dubs' death and chose to send only a mid-level Foreign Ministry official to the memorial service for Ambassador Dubs in Kabul.

I believe that under these circumstances more than a protest from our government is warranted, and I do urge that your Administration take the following specific actions immediately:

(1) Inform the Afghan government that we will not reappoint an Ambassador until an official apology is extended by the Afghan government and full responsibility for Ambassador Dubs' death is accepted. The Afghan government should also be required to provide adequate protection to all official U.S. government personnel in Afghanistan and to provide assurances that in the future it will be guided by U.S. government advice in the handling of threats to the lives of its representatives.

(2) Reduce our Embassy personnel by one-half and request the Afghan Embassy in Washington to do the same.


(3) Terminate our \$15 million aid program and withdraw all of our AID personnel until further notice.

(4) Withdraw all Peace Corps Volunteers until further notice.

Time is of the essence, as the longer there is an absence of a strong and tangible expression of American disapproval of the Afghan government's mishandling of the Dubs affair, the less impact such an expression will have.

With every good wish.

Ever sincerely,

  
Claiborne Pell

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FOOO